

Chapter 8

Coastal Management Program Funding and Grants Program

ICMP Grants Program

Overview

The ICMP Grants Program will initially focus attention on projects which enhance the IDNR's ability to effectively manage and implement the objectives of the ICMP, and in developing the documents which will be needed for securing Section 309 grants. These projects and administrative needs qualify for Section 306 grant funding.

Goals and Objectives

The main goal of the ICMP Grants Program is to provide assistance to help preserve, protect and enhance Illinois' Lake Michigan coastal resources. A primary objective of the ICMP will be to provide for cooperation and coordination among state and local units of governments, regional agencies, interest groups and stakeholders of our coastal resources. As an incentive and means to instill and foster cooperation and program effectiveness, the IDNR will annually make available a portion of 306/306A funding for an ICMP Grants Program. The purpose of the ICMP Grants Program will be to support eligible organizations with pass-through grants to assist in funding studies and projects which are consistent with ICMP policies, goals, and objectives that contribute to effective coastal management. The ICMP will provide an annual list of priority areas and needs.

The ICMP Grants Program will provide assistance to coastal communities in comprehensive community planning for balanced growth and sustainability, and for watershed planning to address coastal nonpoint pollution. Priority will be given to projects which encourage communities to adopt comprehensive plans and goals which protect our coastal resources. It will also provide funding assistance for projects addressing hazard mitigation, natural resource protection or restoration, economic viability, or for projects which enhance public access. Funding may also be available to provide assistance for research, data collection, education or public awareness.

Eligible Recipients for ICMP Grants Program Assistance

The IDNR, with the approval of the Secretary, may allocate a portion of Section 306 and 306A grant funds to the following recipients for assisting in projects or activities which are determined consistent with ICMP priorities and policies:

- Units of local government, including municipalities, townships, counties, villages and water reclamation districts
- Area-wide agencies, including county and regional planning agencies designated under section 204 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966
- State agencies
- Colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning
- Park districts, conservancy districts, school districts and port authorities

- Basin commissions
- Nonprofit organizations that are legally constituted as 501(c)(3) organizations and have been nominated to undertake the project by one of the other eligible entities listed above (Nonprofit organizations are only eligible for non-construction and non-acquisition projects.)

General Category Examples of Eligible Projects

- Coastal Hazard Mitigation
- Public Access
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
- Coastal Wetland Protection
- Government Coordination and Decision Making
- Historic Preservation
- Coastal Resource Research and Data Collection
- Community Planning
- Education and Public Awareness
- Habitat Restoration
- Land Acquisition

General Category Examples of *Non-eligible* Projects

- *Beach re-nourishment*
- *Restroom facilities*
- *Large-scale hard structure erosion control projects*
- *Maintenance*
- *General recreational facilities such as playgrounds or ball fields*
- *Road and parking lot construction*
- *Water and sewer line construction*
- *Wetland or habitat restoration required as a permit condition or mitigation program*

- *Cleanup of contaminated sites required as a permit or regulatory action*
- *Improvements to private property or for private enterprises*

Identifying Annual Priority Issues and Emphasis Areas for the ICMP Grants Program

The ICMP will be a dynamic program. As our coastline is dynamic and continually changing, the ICMP will also continually need to be updated and modified to reflect the changing priorities and emerging issues on Illinois' Lake Michigan coast. The Illinois Lake Michigan Program (ILMP) will be the primary vehicle to incorporate community involvement and public participation. The ILMP will ensure that the ICMP will fulfill its purpose in properly planning for and managing our natural and cultural resources in our coastal region by creating both an ongoing transparent process and shared vision for prioritizing project targets, the ILMP will ensure that there is broad public support for projects in the coastal zone.

The project evaluation criteria will be weighted to provide incentives for grant projects which address the ICMP priority issues and emphasis areas. The following approach will be taken to identify these priority needs and emphasis areas:

1. The Coastal Advisory Group (CAG) will develop the ILMP which will provide a shared vision for identifying priority issues and emphasis areas with particular relevance to their defining role as being the forum for broad public input on regional issues and community involvement. These will include the CAG making recommendations which will provide better direction and implementation of the ICMP.
2. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review and provide comment on the recommendations received from the CAG. The TAC will also provide recommendations on priority issues and emphasis areas with particular relevance to their defining role as the forum for state agency input, consistency review, and coordination with other state or local agencies on projects or issues which could have an effect on land and water resources within the coastal zone. Final decisions on projects will be made by the IDNR Director.